

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01280 140359Z

13

ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: LAST FAREWELL TO CHU TEH: ATMOSPHERICS

REF: PEKING 1253

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ITS FINAL TWO DAYS, JUNE 10 AND 22, PEKING'S OFFICIAL MOURNING FOR CHU TEH REMAINED NOTABLE CHIEFLY FOR EFFICIENT RITES MANAGEMENT AND CROWD CONTROL. A FILM RELEASED AFTERWARDS MAKES THE FUNERAL SEEM RATHER MORE OF AN EVENT THAN IT WAS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LEADERSHIP'S MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR CHU TEH HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE GREAT HALL OCCASIONED NOTABLY TIGHTER SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN THE VICINITY AND MORE CONSPICUOUS ROLE FOR THE MILITIA AS COMPARED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COU MEMORIAL MEETING.

3. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO JOINED CROWDS OF CHINESE ONLOOKERS ALONG CHANG AN STREET TELL US THAT THEY PERSONALLY WITNESSED ONLY TWO DISPLAYS OF EMOTION--BOTH WITHIN HUNG CHI LIMOUSINES

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01280 140359Z

IN THE LEADERSHIP CAVALADE. YEH CHIEN-YING WAS SEEN APPARENTLY

WIPING AWAY A TEAR AND CHIAO KUAN-HUA APPEARED "GENUINELY MOVED."

4. PEKING TELEVISION JULY 12 RAN ITS FIRST COVERAGE OF THE OBSERVANCES FOR CHU, COMBINING IN A SINGLE FILM THE DIFFERENT ETAGES FROM VIEWING OF THE REMAINS AT THE HOSPITAL TO DELIVERY OF THE URN TO PA PAO SHAN CEMETARY. (THE CHIEF EVENTS IN THE OFFICIAL MOURNING OF CHOU HAD BEEN SCREENED INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN A DAY OF THEIR OCCURRENCE AND WE WOULD GUESS HELPED CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRONGLY EMOTIONAL CLIMATE THEN.) ASSUMING FBIS HAS TAPED THIS FILM, COMPARISON WITH SOME DETAILS IN THE COVERAGE OF CHOU'S FUNERAL WOULD BE OF INTEREST. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD--AND FOR THE CHINESE PUBLIC OUTSIDE PEKING--THE PRC AUTHORITIES WANTED IN THIS FILM TO TREAT CHU'S FUNERAL AS HAVING BEEN JUST ABOUT AS GRAND, SOLEMN AND SORROWFUL AN OCCASION AS CHOU'S HAD BEEN. THEY PERHAPS ALSO WANTED TO MAKE THE POINT CLEARLY, BY REPEATED SHOTS OF THE WREATH SENT BY MAO, THAT THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE COUNTED AMONG THE MOURNERS. MAO'S WIFE CHIANG CHING TAKES THE HONORS THIS TIME FOR SHOW OF EMOTION, TWICE EMBRACING CHU'S WIDOW KANG KE-CHING.

5. AS IN THE CHOU FUNERAL COVERAGE, THE USLO CONTINGENT IS IN ITS PROTOCOL RANK--LAST--IN THE SEGMENT SHOWING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS PAYING RESPECTS, BUT AGAIN RATES A LITTLE MORE FOOTAGE THAN SOME EMBASSIES, INCLUDING THE SOVIET.
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